

**RAMBLES IN WESTERN CORNWALL BY
THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE GIANTS; WITH
NOTES ON THE CELTIC REMAINS OF
THE LAND'S END DISTRICT AND THE
ISLANDS OF SCILLY**

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Rambles in Western Cornwall by the footsteps of the giants; with notes on the Celtic remains of the Land's End District and the Islands of Scilly by J. O. Halliwell

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J. O. HALLIWELL

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BY THE FOOTSTEPS OF
THE GIANTS;

WITH NOTES ON THE CELTIC REMAINS OF THE
LAND'S END DISTRICT AND THE
ISLANDS OF SCILLY.

BY J. ^{James Orchard} O. ^{Phillips} HALLIWELL, F.R.S.



LONDON:
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1861.

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PREFACE.



HAD never opened that singular and valuable folio volume,—Borlase's *Antiquities of Cornwall*, first published in 1754, and again, with a few additions, in 1769,—without feeling a curiosity and desire to examine the original monuments therein described, and to pay a visit to a land which the uncornish reader of that work pictures to himself as literally strewn with solemn cromlechs and hoary circles, all popularly known as memorials of the giants of old. And when, a few weeks ago, the exigencies of summer led us to Penzance, and to the realization of

this wish, it occurred to me that it might be worth while, at the same time, to give an account of the condition in which the antiquities noticed by Borlase now remain. If I did nothing more than identify what are preserved, and discover which of them are destroyed, a record of the result would, I thought, save trouble, and be useful to the future inquirer. Under this impression, I dotted down the brief notes collected together in the following pages.

The task of identification, excepting in a few instances, was, however, no easy matter. Borlase generally only mentions the parish in which a monument was found, not the exact locality; and none of the writers on the subject, since his time, have supplied further information. Some of the antiquities also are now known under different titles, so that the position of only a small proportion of those described could be ascertained by reference to any accessible sources of information.

The chief of all that has been attempted is to remove this difficulty from the path of any one who

may desire to investigate these antiquities more fully. But notes on several of importance hitherto unnoticed are added; new views are suggested respecting the probable use of the cliff-castles and what have been generally termed Druidical holed stones; and, with perhaps equal rashness, an attempt has been made to remove part of a veil beyond which lies hid a curious episode in the history of the last traces of the ancient Cornish language.

The Land's End District having been anciently the chosen Land of the Giants, as is asserted in our folk-lore, it was a matter of curiosity to trace what now remain of the traditions respecting them. Such traditions not unfrequently prove useful in literary investigation, and all should be carefully preserved. Those which are here given have been derived from sources of unquestionable purity, and have not been subjected to the cunning hand of the improver or adulterator. Great pains also have been taken in every instance, where any spot has been named after a giant, to ascertain that the title given is or was the

real provincial appellation. In a few years such investigations will be fruitless; for the traditions linger only in the memories of the older people. The results of the inquiries now made, if they prove nothing else, will show how widely spread was the story of the giants amongst the ancient inhabitants of Western Cornwall.

October 4th, 1861.